



# COUNTY OF SOLANO

## PROBATION DEPARTMENT

**Isabelle Voit**  
Chief Probation Officer

**Joel Keller**  
Chief Deputy Probation Officer

May 20, 2008

Ramona Garrett  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
Solano Superior Court  
600 Union Ave.  
Fairfield, CA 94533

Dear Judge Garrett:

Enclosed please find the Chief Probation Officer response to the 2007-2008 Grand Jury Report  
Entitled: Fouts Springs Youth Facility, dated April 30, 2008.

Sincerely,

Isabelle J. Voit  
Chief Probation Officer  
Solano County

cc: Grand Jury  
Michael Johnson, County Administrator  
Kathy Gibson, Deputy CAO  
Garry Ichikawa, Presiding Juvenile Court Judge

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# **Fouts Springs Youth Facility**

**Issued April 30, 2008**

## **Chief Probation Officer response to the Grand Jury Report:**

**Finding #1** – The Snow Mountain Academy Program is designed for the rehabilitation of male youthful offenders in a structured environment. Emphasis is placed on education, vocational training and counseling. High risk offenders are sent to the Fouts Springs Youth Facility upon recommendation by a probation department and review of a judge. The Solano County Probation Department tracks wards in the juvenile system from Solano County until they complete their probation. There is no requirement or mechanism to track the status of wards placed in the program by other counties. As a result, there is no method of evaluating the success of the Program for those other wards once they return to their local communities.

**Probation's Response to Finding #1** – Probation agrees with this finding with the exception of making a correction. The Snow Mountain Academy Program was the name of the boot camp previously operated at Fouts Springs Youth Facility. This program ended in November 2004. The program described in this finding is the current Fouts Springs Youth Facility program.

**Recommendation #1** – The Snow Mountain Academy Program's goals to educate, rehabilitate, and provide counseling services for youthful offenders are laudable. The Solano County Probation Department should develop a method for evaluating the effectiveness of this Program and sharing its objectives and successes with participating counties.

**Probation's Response to Recommendation #1** – The recommendation has been implemented. Data gathered regarding Solano County's wards is used to evaluate program effectiveness. The objectives and successes of the program are part of materials shared with other counties.

**Finding #2** – Fouts Springs Youth Facility's budget is based on revenues derived from a two-tiered structure with Solano and Colusa counties paying a higher rate for the first 20 wards and a lower rate for the remaining 40 wards. While there is sufficient land and buildings to house up to 162 wards, the budget approved by the Solano County Board of Supervisors only provides funding and staffing to operate Fouts Springs Youth Facility and the Snow Mountain Academy Program for up to 60 wards. At the time of the Grand Jury's visit, 60 wards were participating in the Program at Fouts and there was a short waiting list.

**Probation's Response to Finding #2** – Probation agrees with this finding with one clarification. Solano and Colusa counties pay the higher rate for the first 20 wards and pay the same lower rate as user counties for additional wards. If user counties have more than 40 wards at Fouts, Solano and Colusa offset the difference between the rates for the additional wards.

**Recommendation #2a** – The Solano County Board of Supervisors and the Fouts Springs Board of Directors should continue to review the rate structure and occupancy of Solano County and other participating counties to maximize use of Fouts Springs Youth Facility without incurring a deficit in its budget.

**Probation's Response to Recommendation #2** – The recommendation has been implemented. Rate structure and occupancy are regularly reviewed. An increase in the user county rate and a slight decrease in the Solano and Colusa County rate have been approved by the Fouts Board of Directors and will be implemented July 1, 2008, if approved by the Solano County Board of Supervisors.

**Recommendation #2b** – The Solano County Board of Supervisors and the Fouts Springs Board of Directors should consider increasing the budget and staffing for expanding ward capacity when and if there is an increased demand for the Snow Mountain Academy Program.

**Probation's Response to Recommendation #3** – The recommendation requires further analysis. Occupancy is constantly monitored and a significant increase in demand will trigger a more detailed analysis of the feasibility of opening additional beds.